

***Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary
Youth Working Group
2014/2015**

Background Information:

***Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS)**

The *Monitor* NMS enjoys the distinction of being the nation's first national marine sanctuary, established in 1975. The *Monitor* rests upside down on a sand-covered seafloor 16 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina in 230 feet of water. The *Monitor* is recognized for its significance as the vessel that revolutionized nineteenth-century naval technology and warfare. In 1862, the turreted ironclad engaged the Confederate ironclad, CSS *Virginia*, in battle. Less than a year later, the *Monitor* sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

The wreck and waters above it are protected by an area of one nautical mile in diameter. Sanctuary Management includes minimizing further deterioration of the wreck, recovering important ship components and artifacts, as appropriate, and protecting the wreck from damage by human activities, such as illegal vessel anchoring and illegal fishing practices.

***Monitor* NMS Advisory Council**

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) regards community involvement and the development of a stewardship ethic, as vitally important to successfully protecting sanctuary resources. One key way to achieve this involvement is the formation of sanctuary advisory councils.

The advisory council brings diverse community members together to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent regarding the management and protection of the sanctuary.

To view the full *Monitor* NMS Council charter visit
<http://monitor.noaa.gov/advisory/pdfs/charter.pdf>

Council Working Groups

Working groups may be established by the council and the sanctuary superintendent for specific purposes or topics that need focused attention and cannot be accomplished by a subcommittee. Working groups may be composed of members of the council and persons outside the council, but shall be chaired by a primary member of the council. They shall function under the scope of the council. All working groups must submit their findings or recommendations to the full council for deliberation at a public meeting.

To view the full council handbook visit
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/pdfs/sachandbook2008app.pdf>

Youth Working Group Purpose:

The Youth Working Group (YWG) will consist of members selected through a competitive process. Youth will be selected from the following localities: Virginia Peninsula, Virginia South Side, North Carolina Dare County, and North Carolina Hyde County.

The Youth Working Group will be chaired by a *Monitor* NMS council member. In addition to the working group chair, at least one other adult will serve on the working group and must be present each time the working group meets (i.e. there must be at least two adults present at each meeting).

The purpose of the Youth Working Group is to advise the *Monitor* NMS Advisory Council and sanctuary superintendent on issues pertaining to ocean conservation and how young adults view these issues in today's changing world. Through the YWG, the council seeks to learn how best to convey the message of ocean conservation to the youth of today. The council also seeks to gain a better understanding of how to engage young people to become stewards of our oceans.

There may be opportunities for the members of the Youth Working Group to participate in summer fieldwork, outreach activities and events, council meetings, workshops, and other opportunities as they arise. Members of the Youth Working Group will be encouraged to share their experiences working with the *Monitor* NMS to the youth of their community and to convey to their peers the message for the importance of ocean conservation and protecting our maritime heritage.

Youth Working Group Requirements:

Members selected to serve on the Youth Working Group must be between the ages of 14 and 17 and

- attend a school in the area affected by the sanctuary (Virginia and North Carolina);
- have proven ability to communicate and network with other students within their school and other schools in their community;
- possess an interest in sanctuary resource protection and management;
- have experience and/or knowledge regarding public uses and activities in the sanctuary;
- be able to travel to and attend working group meetings (parent or youth provides transportation);
- have written permission from parent/guardian;
- have written recommendation from one or more teachers;
- have written permission from school administration to participate in working group (only if working group or council meetings require a student to miss school); and
- serve for a maximum term of two years, until the working group's work is complete, or graduate from high school, whichever comes first.

Youth Working Group Guidelines:

Youth Working Group members serve at the discretion of the sanctuary superintendent and will serve for a period of not more than two years. Youth members are governed by the same rules and regulations as other council working groups and are subject to the same grounds for removal:

- Is convicted of a felony offense;
- Is found to have violated any of the following laws or regulations promulgated thereunder: the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or another environmental law for which NOAA or another federal agency has jurisdictional responsibility;
- Is found to have violated state environmental laws or regulations promulgated thereunder in the state in which the sanctuary is located;
- Is found to have violated national or state regulations (in the state in which the sanctuary is located) protecting cultural resources;
- Is determined to have abused his or her position as a member of the working group.
- Misses a consecutive number of meetings without reasonable justification;
- Disrupts on more than one occasion working group meetings in a manner that interferes with the council conducting its business; or
- Violates any term of the Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter.

Youth Working Group Entry Submittal Process:

Complete the information requested on the *Entry Page*. Return the *Entry Page* and your response to the question below to: Shannon Ricles, *Monitor* NMS, 100 Museum Dr., Newport News, VA 23606; fax 757-591-7353; or email Shannon.Ricles@noaa.gov

The completed entry for the 2014/2015 school year must be received no later than **–June 30, 2014.**

Students are required to thoroughly address one question:

- Why do you want to participate in the Youth Working Group? Answers might include addressing the following type of information:
 - ❖ Reason for your interest in serving on the working group.
 - ❖ Your philosophy or views regarding the protection and management of marine and Great Lakes resources (both natural and cultural...i.e. fish, coral reefs, shipwrecks).
 - ❖ What you think the role of the Youth Working Group is and how you will work to best support the sanctuary while a member of the group.
 - ❖ What unique knowledge and/or experience you offer the group, to better advise the council and sanctuary superintendent regarding the purpose outlined for the group.
 - ❖ How long you have lived in the community and any other groups or affiliations you may have...i.e. Student Council, Science Club, soccer team, employment.
 - ❖ Description of how much time you have to give to the working group and how you will consult and share information with your peers in the community.
 - ❖ Address any other relevant qualifications or information that would benefit the working group.

We encourage you to present the requested information in any format that you would like to pursue. Be creative, and because you will be expected to communicate and share ideas with your peers, keep in mind how you and other young people communicate in today's world. You may choose to submit your answers in an essay, a PowerPoint presentation, a Podcast, a video, blog, or any other media you want to create. However, no matter how you submit the information, a hard copy (paper copy) of your submission must also be included in the packet. For example, if you do a Podcast, then you must submit a transcript of the podcast. If you submit a video, you need also to submit the written script for the video.

If you have any questions about the process, you may contact Shannon Ricles by voice at 757-591-7328 or by email at shannon.ricles@noaa.gov

